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Senate passes Cassis parental involvement bill

Lansing – The state Senate today unanimously passed legislation designed to encourage more parents to participate in their children’s education. Senate Bill 307, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi), requires schools to implement parental involvement programs and the Michigan Department of Education to post successful plans on their Web site.

“The critical importance of parents’ involvement in their children’s education cannot be emphasized enough,” Cassis said. “As a former school psychologist, I know how vital it is for the state and schools to work together to encourage parents to become partners in their children’s education.”

SB 307 requires a school board, or the board of directors of a public school academy, to adopt and implement an involvement plan designed to encourage parental participation by the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year.

Over the past six months, graduate students from Wayne State University presented research to the Senate Education Committee on the benefits to children of parental involvement in their education. Sen. Cassis worked with Dr. Cheryl Somers, a member of the Michigan Association of School Psychologists and professor at WSU, in coordinating the research with the presenters from WSU.

The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

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